

SIDS Documentation	
Questions	Observations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • baby's age • recent or recurring illnesses • medications given • unusual behavior before death • when parents last saw the baby before death • who found the infant and where • whether any interventions were undertaken by parents • any other details parents can provide regarding the event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • position and location of infant on arrival • condition and characteristics of the baby's crib • whether any potentially dangerous objects, such as medications, cords or strings, or small items that could cause choking, were close by • general appearance of the home and other children • parents' behavior

■ TRIPP HANDOUT

Interacting with the Family after the Death of a Child

Initial Contact

- Make initial introductions
- Obtain a short history
- Use the child's first name
- One EMT should provide support for the family

If Resuscitation is Provided

- Explain resuscitation efforts and expected events
- Let family members remain within sight of their child
- Transport family members with the child if possible

If Resuscitation is Not Provided

- Meet with family members
- Tell the family immediately
- Use the word "dead" or "died"
- Explain why resuscitation was not provided
- Encourage family members to call for religious support

Coping Strategies

- Encourage family members to express their feelings
- Discuss the possibility of organ donation

- Be prepared to deal with parents' feelings of guilt
- Encourage parents to ask questions
- Keep answers to questions as brief as possible
- Repeat answers to ensure that they are understood

Questions Parents Frequently Ask

- "Was I to blame?"
- "Did my child suffer pain?"
- "Why did my child die?"
- "What will happen next?"

Be Sure To

- Express sympathy to family members
- Provide a contact phone number for follow-up questions
- Provide written information

Never Say

- "I know how you feel."
- "You can always have other children."
- "You have other children."
- "This happened because . . ."
- "You will feel better in time."

Based on information from Prehospital Care of Pediatric Emergencies, edited by J. S. Seidel and D. P. Henderson (Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett, 1997), 168.